

REMARKS

Claims 3, 6, 10 and 11 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants are pleased to note the Examiner indicated that claim 3 is allowed and claims 6 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten claims 6 and 10 in independent form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 10 are in form for allowance.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Ohta et al. (EP 0493116).

Claims 1 and 5 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1 and 5 under § 102(b) is rendered moot.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 10. Therefore, claim 11 is allowable by virtue of its dependence on allowable claim 10.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 11 under § 102(b) be withdrawn.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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